

Lake Champlain Aquatic Habitat Connectivity

Fish Passage in the Winooski River Watershed

Herring Brook at a private driveway, Moretown Vermont



Before



After

Left: A view of the Herring Brook culvert outlet showing the damage from TS Irene. **Right:** Herring Brook Bridge allowing for aquatic organism passage and flood resiliency.

Site description: Herring Brook and its tributaries flow eastward down from Herring Brook Rd and then turn north as it connects to Jones Brook which continues onto the Winooski River. The waters support a wild brook trout community. Replacement of the Herring Brook culvert with a bridge will allow native brook trout to access 1.2 miles of critical thermal refugia and spawning habitat.

Problems / history: Multiple culverts in Vermont were in need of emergency repair following the flooding from tropical storm Irene in August of 2011. Following tropical storm Irene many of the emergency fixes were designed to quickly open roads for vehicle traffic, but not always allow for fish and aquatic organism passage.

Objective and Method: Tropical Storm Irene devastated parts of the Winooski River basin. Our objective is to insure that brook trout habitat is available and healthy post flooding. Our goal is to maintain healthy, sustainable brook trout populations. Proactively assisting towns will lead to projects large enough to sustain future catastrophic events while maintaining the exceptional fishery.

Partners and Funding: Funding and support for this project came from the NRCS, White River Partnership, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

<u>Cost:</u>	<u>USFWS</u>	<u>NRCS</u>	<u>State of VT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	\$14,935	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$84,935